Lovely Strange Dark
MUSHI TO UTA
"BUGS AND SONGS"
BY ICHIKAWA HARUKO
STORY 3
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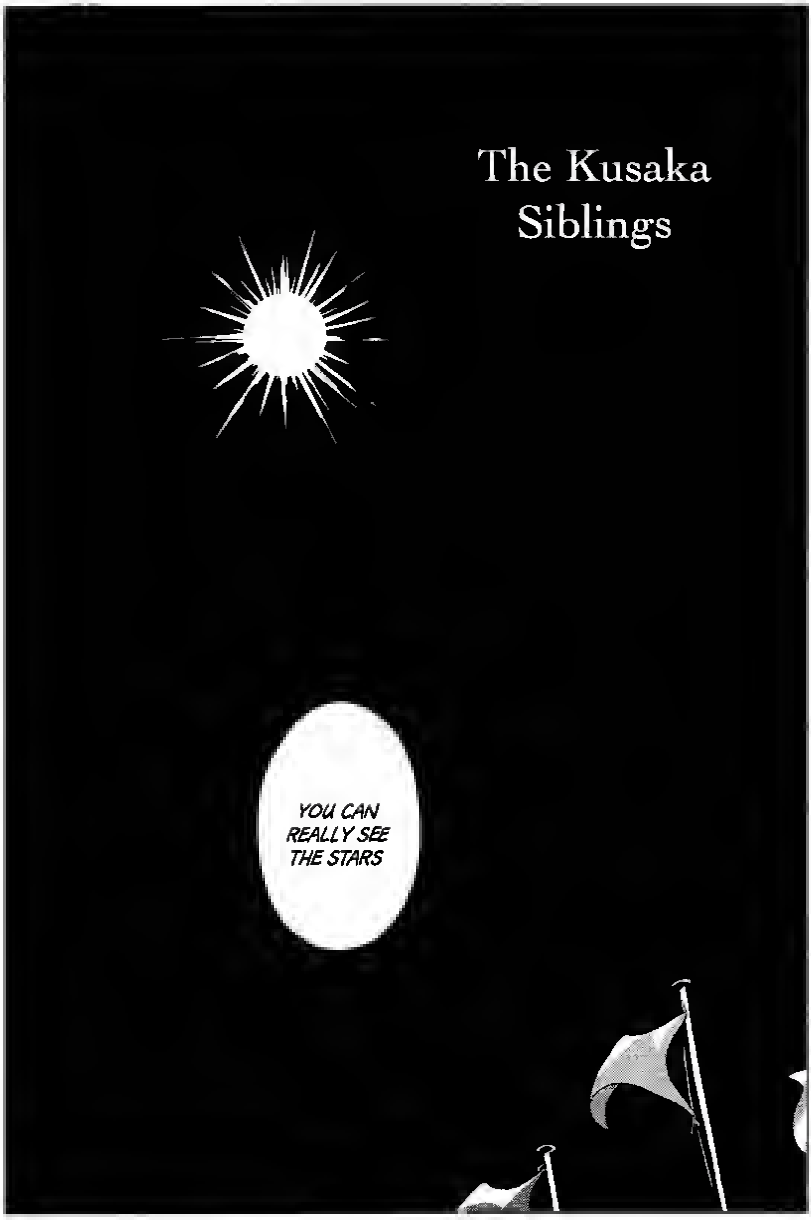
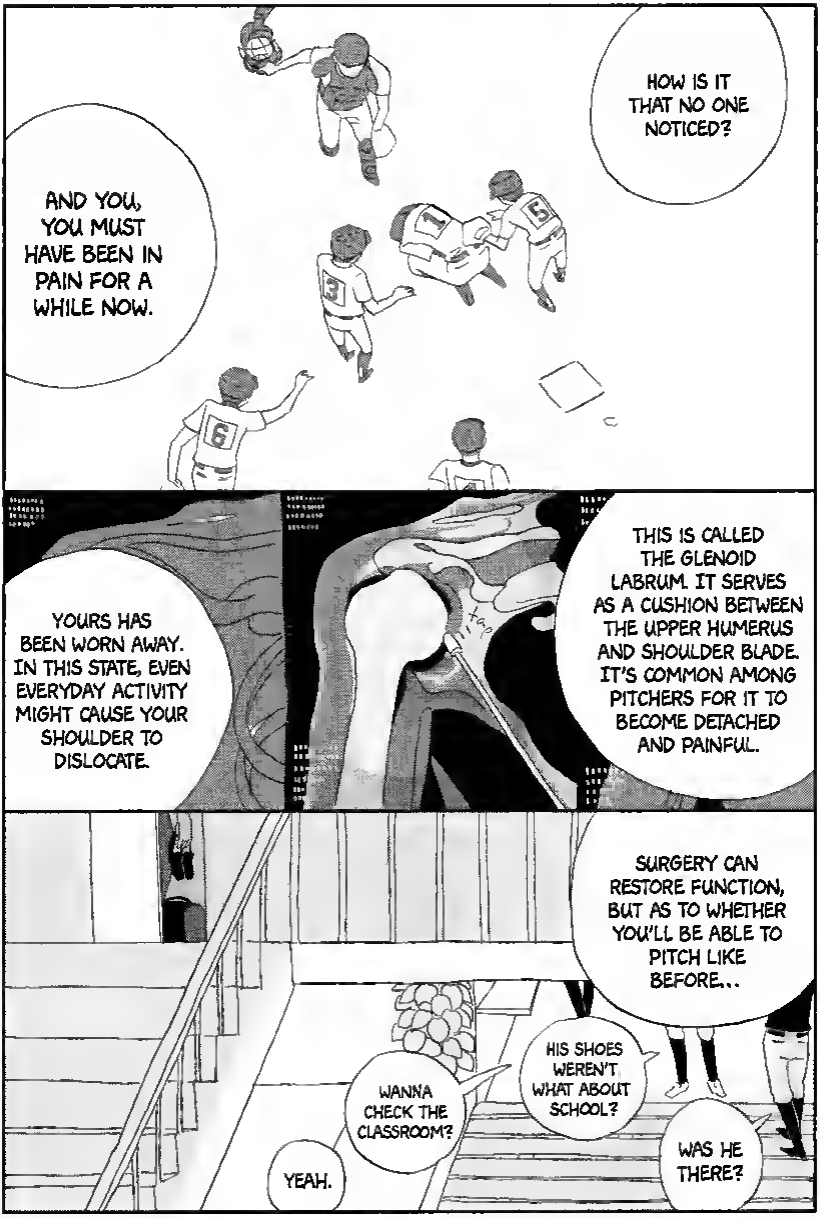
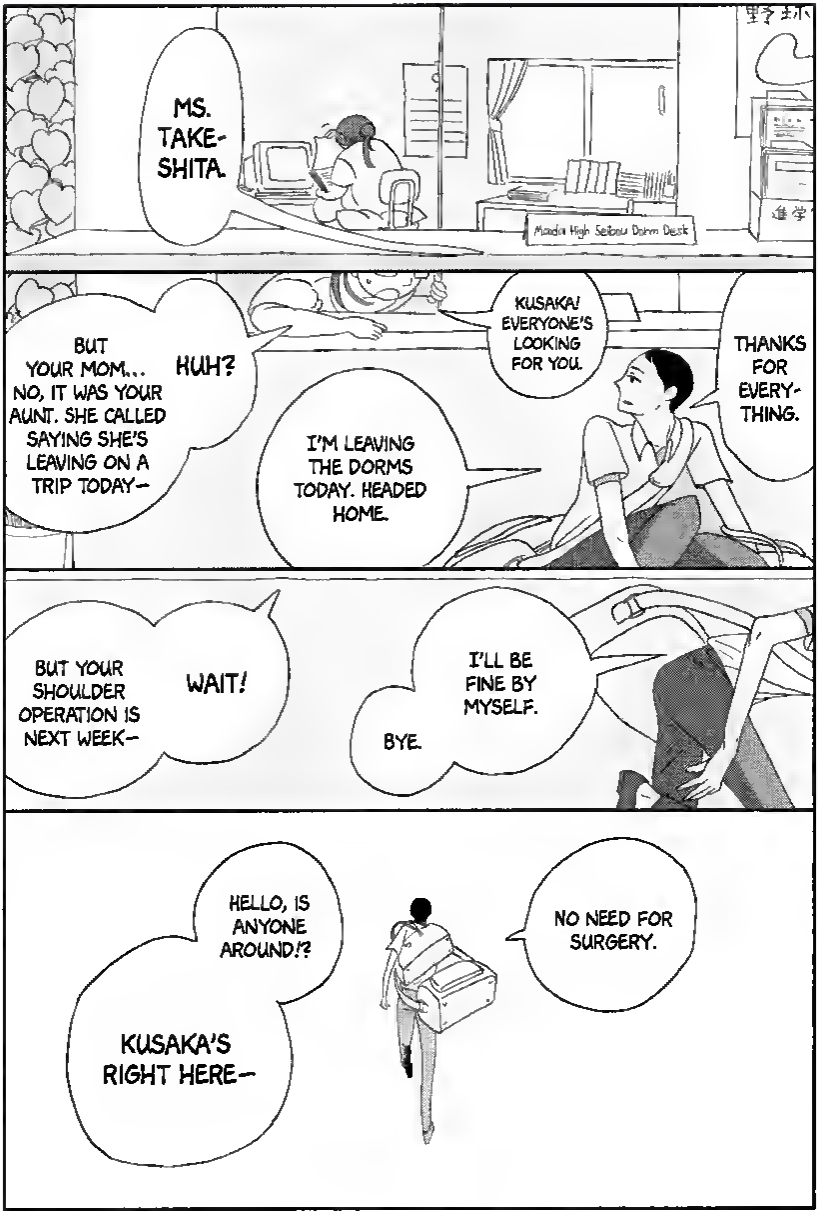
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com


The Kusaka Siblings
YOU CAN REALLY SEE THE STARS

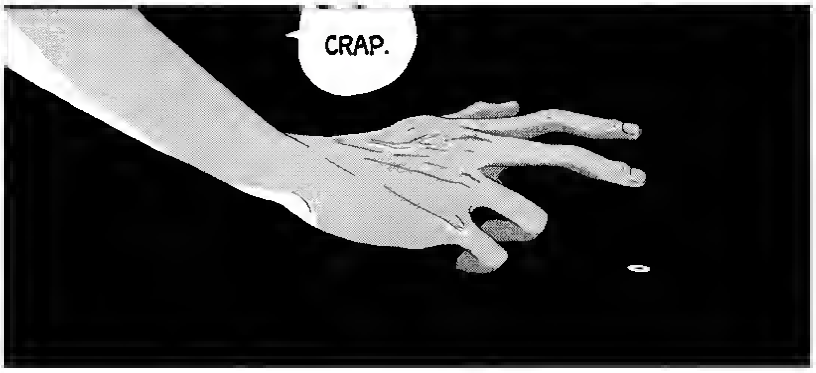
LOOKS LIKE NIGHT FELL.
SNAP
RAAAH!
GOOD.

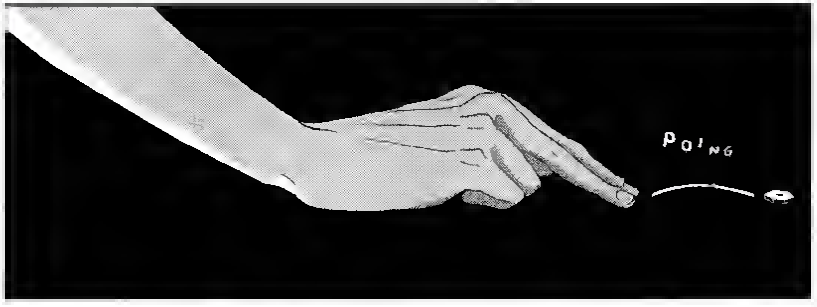

HOW IS IT THAT NO ONE NOTICED?
AND YOU, YOU MUST HAVE BEEN IN PAIN FOR A WHILE NOW.
THIS IS CALLED THE GLENOID LABRUM. IT SERVES AS A CUSHION BETWEEN THE UPPER HUMERUS AND SHOULDER BLADE. IT'S COMMON AMONG PITCHERS FOR IT TO BECOME DETACHED AND PAINFUL.
YOURS HAS BEEN WORN AWAY. IN THIS STATE, EVEN EVERYDAY ACTIVITY MIGHT CAUSE YOUR SHOULDER TO DISLOCATE.
SURGERY CAN RESTORE FUNCTION, BUT AS TO WHETHER YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PITCH LIKE BEFORE...
HIS SHOES WEREN'T
WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?
WAS HE THERE?
WANNA CHECK THE CLASSROOM?
YEAH.

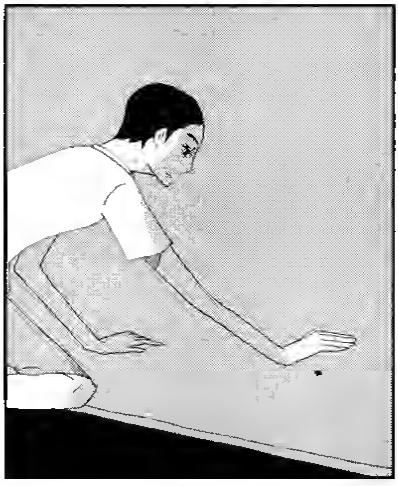

MS. TAKE-SHITA.
Maeda High Seibou Dorm Desk
KUSAKA! EVERYONE'S LOOKING FOR YOU.
THANKS FOR EVERY-THING.
I'M LEAVING THE DORMS TODAY. HEADED HOME.
HUH?
BUT YOUR MOM... NO, IT WAS YOUR AUNT. SHE CALLED SAYING SHE'S LEAVING ON A TRIP TODAY—
I'LL BE FINE BY MYSELF.
BYE.
WAIT!
BUT YOUR SHOULDER OPERATION IS NEXT WEEK—
NO NEED FOR SURGERY.
HELLO, IS ANYONE AROUND!?
KUSAKA'S RIGHT HERE—

YEAH...
September
Year 2 Clas
leaving the
baseball
CLACK
HM?
Kusaka Antiques
CLOSED
Sept 20-30
Out on
Acquisition
THERE AREN'T ANY CUSTO-MERS...
Kusaka

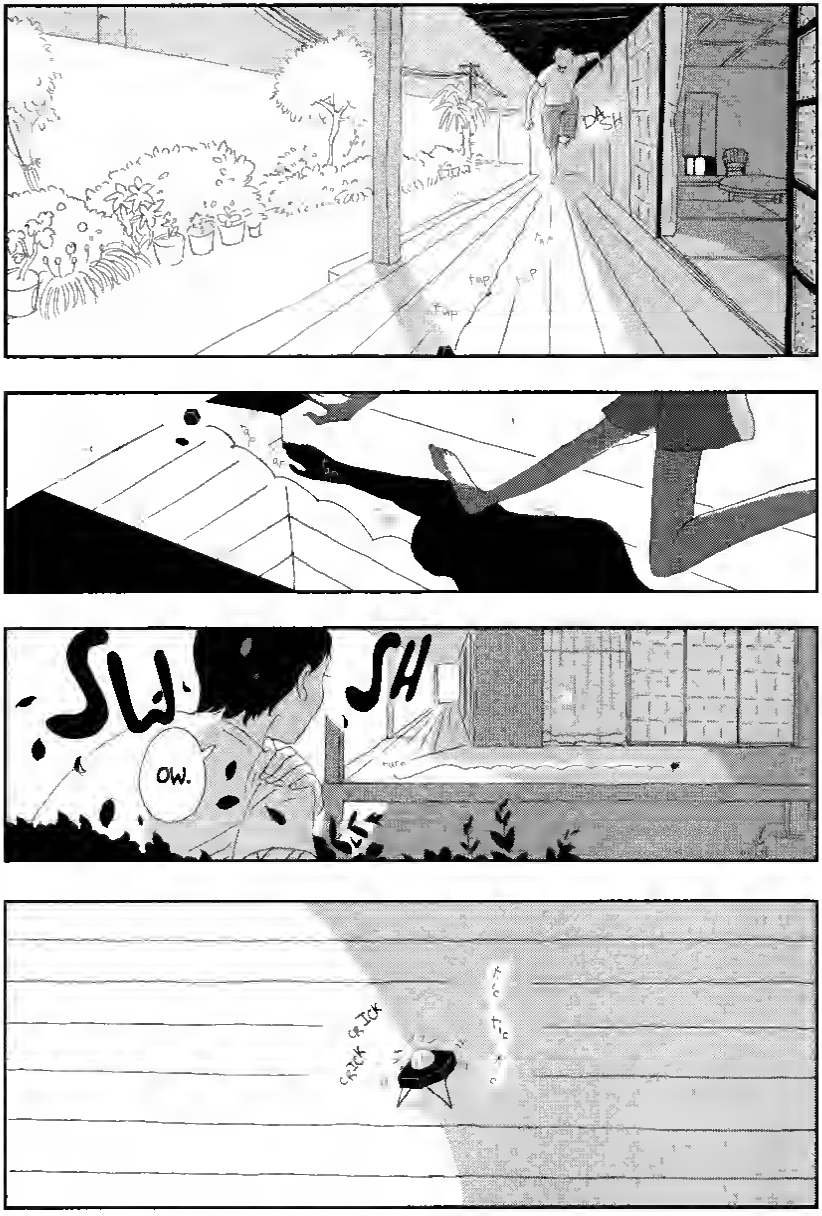
SALE
5000
DAMAGED
Sale
Repair
crack
chipped
cracked
SALE
MAGED
IF I WORKED HERE, I'D GET YOU SOLD.
PING
PLUCK
ME, IT'S MY SHOULDER.
rattle
rattle
rattle
rattle
Crack
SO WHERE'RE YOU BROKEN?

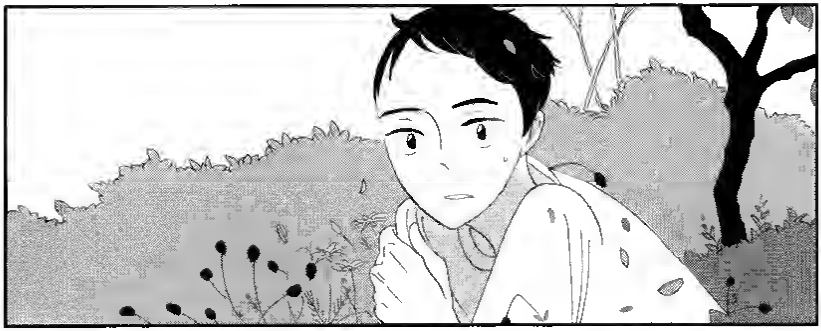

CRAP.

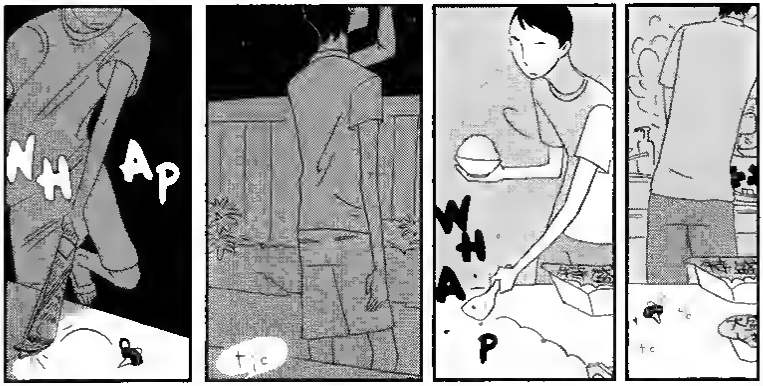

POING

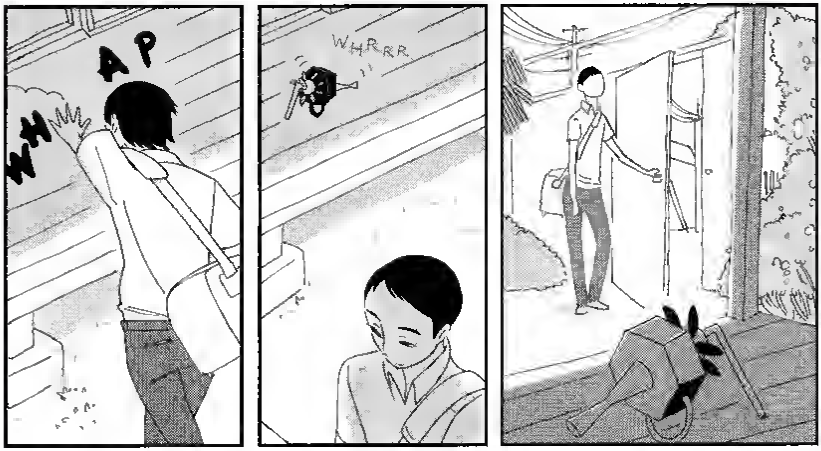


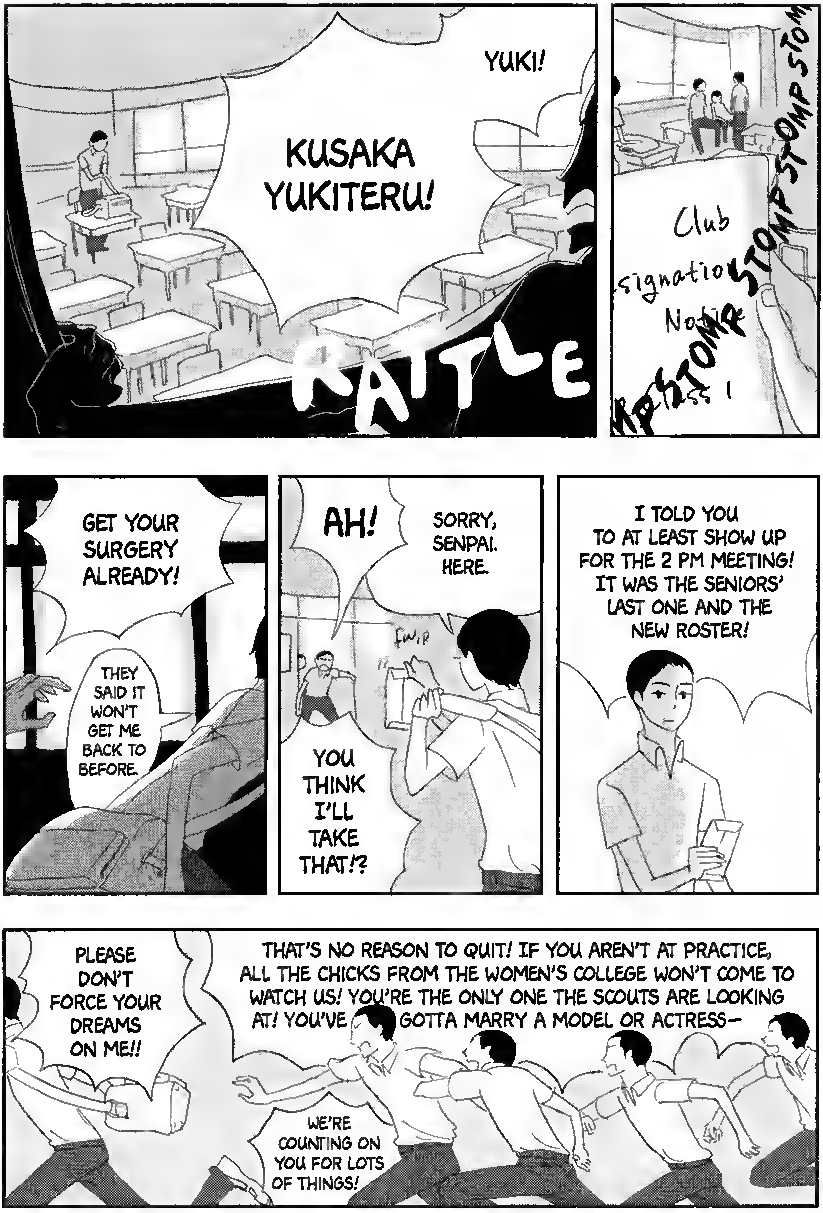
tic
tic
tic
creak creak creak
pong
pong
pong

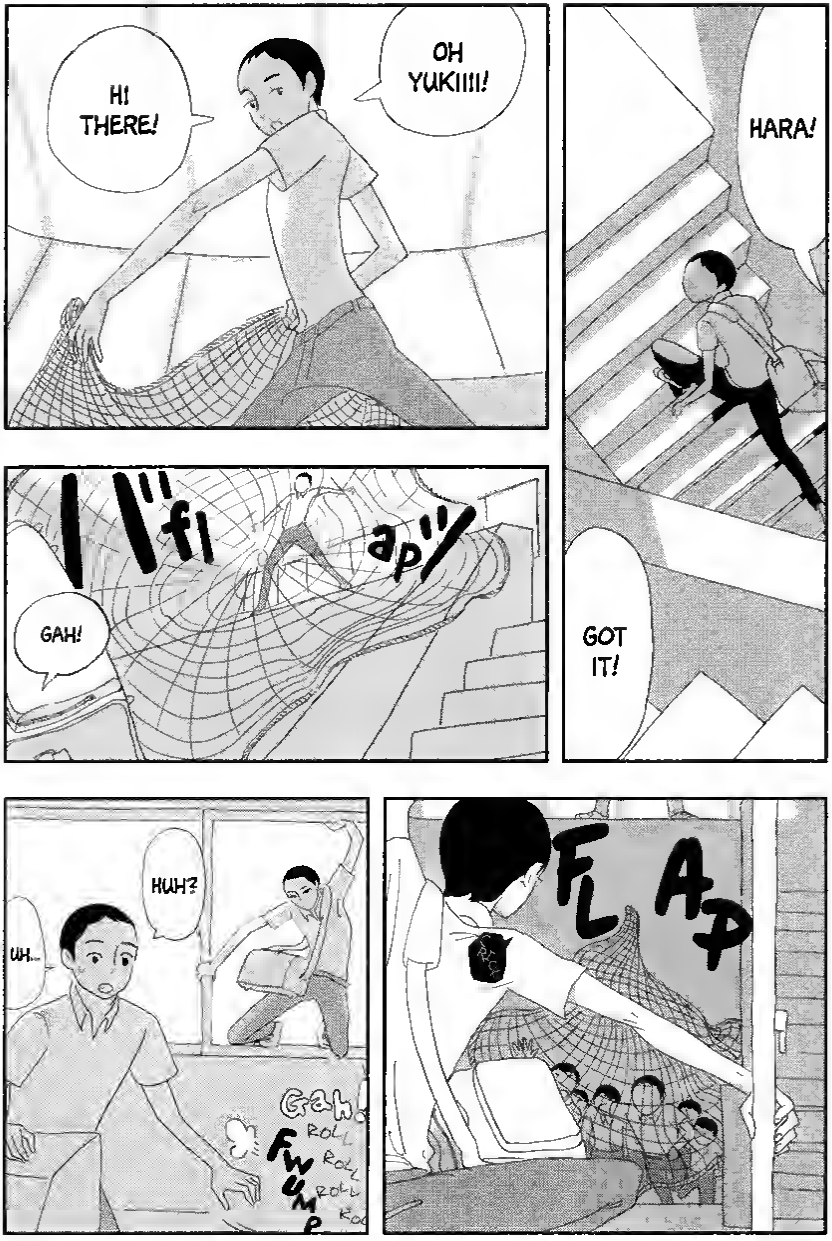

DASH
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
SH!
SH
OW.
CRICK
CRICK
tic
tic

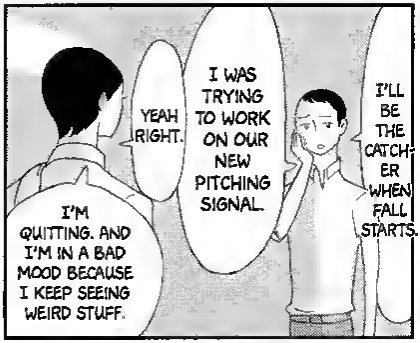



WH
AP
tic
WH
AP
tc


WH
AP
WHRRR


YUKI!
KUSAKA YUKITERU!
RATTLE
Club
STOMP STOMP STOMP
GET YOUR SURGERY ALREADY!
THEY SAID IT WON'T GET ME BACK TO BEFORE.
AH!
SORRY, SENPAI. HERE.
YOU THINK I'LL TAKE THAT!?
I TOLD YOU TO AT LEAST SHOW UP FOR THE 2 PM MEETING! IT WAS THE SENIORS' LAST ONE AND THE NEW ROSTER!
PLEASE DON'T FORCE YOUR DREAMS ON ME!!
THAT'S NO REASON TO QUIT! IF YOU AREN'T AT PRACTICE, ALL THE CHICKS FROM THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE WON'T COME TO WATCH US! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THE SCOUTS ARE LOOKING AT! YOU'VE GOTTA MARRY A MODEL OR ACTRESS—
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU FOR LOTS OF THINGS!


HI THERE!
OH YUKI!!!!
HARA!
GOT IT!
GAH!
flap
UH...
HUH?
FLAP

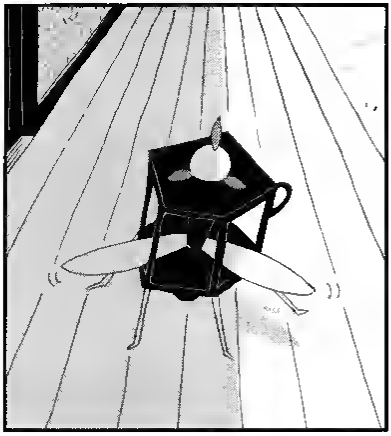

I'M QUITTING. AND I'M IN A BAD MOOD BECAUSE I KEEP SEEING WEIRD STUFF.
YEAH RIGHT.
I WAS TRYING TO WORK ON OUR NEW PITCHING SIGNAL.
I'LL BE THE CATCHER WHEN FALL STARTS.

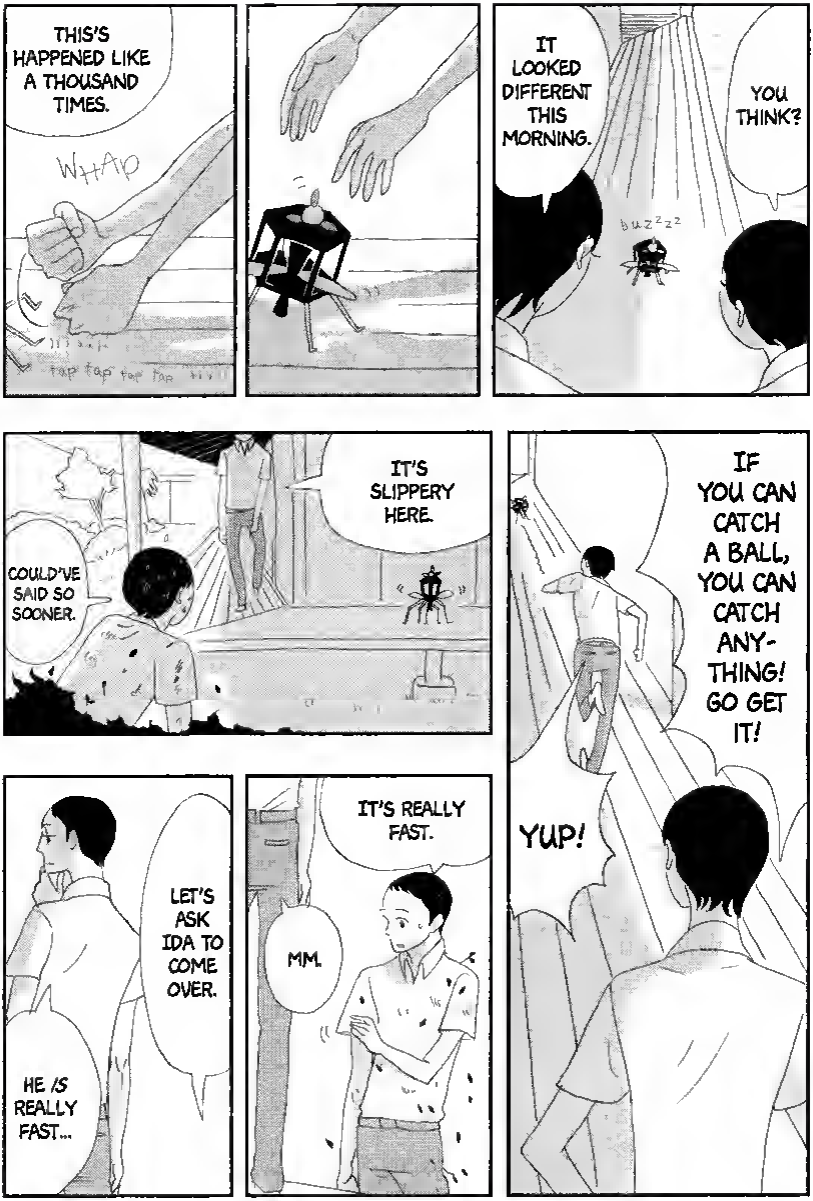
STUPID FRESHMAN.
THE HELL WAS THAT?

WHAP
SIGH

OH, YOU'RE SEEING THINGS? SO THE RUMORS THAT THE PAIN IN YOUR ARM'S MADE YOU CRAZY ARE TRUE--

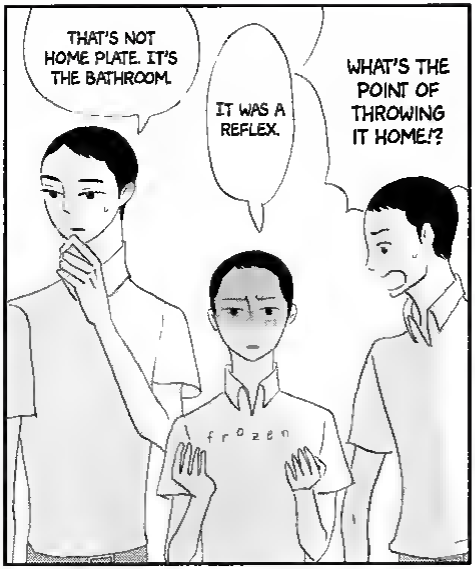
THAT'S IT.
I THINK.




THIS'S HAPPENED LIKE A THOUSAND TIMES.
WHAP
tap tap tap tap
IT LOOKED DIFFERENT THIS MORNING.
YOU THINK?
buzzzz
IT'S SLIPPERY HERE.
COULD'VE SAID SO SOONER.
IF YOU CAN CATCH A BALL, YOU CAN CATCH ANY-THING! GO GET IT!
YUP!
IT'S REALLY FAST.
MM.
LET'S ASK IDA TO COME OVER.
HE IS REALLY FAST...

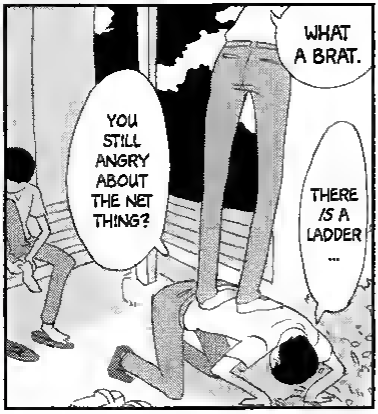
SO YOU'RE NOT CRAZY?
WHAT'D YOU MEAN?
MS. TAKE-SHITA SAID YOU WERE ACTING WEIRD.
IDA,
Thanks!
CATCH THAT THING.
UH, SURE.
Right.
MS. TAKE-SHITA.
POING

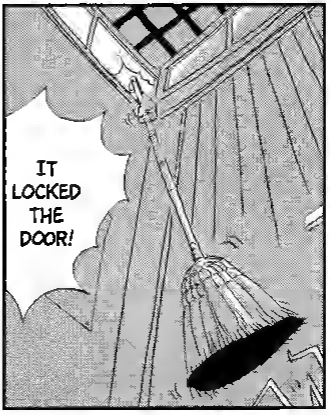
GRAB
WOW.
FOOT STRIKE!
EEEEE
EEEEE
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
BLERG
BLERG
GLOOP
GLOOP
GLOOP
KEEP IT UP, IDA!
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
SLAM

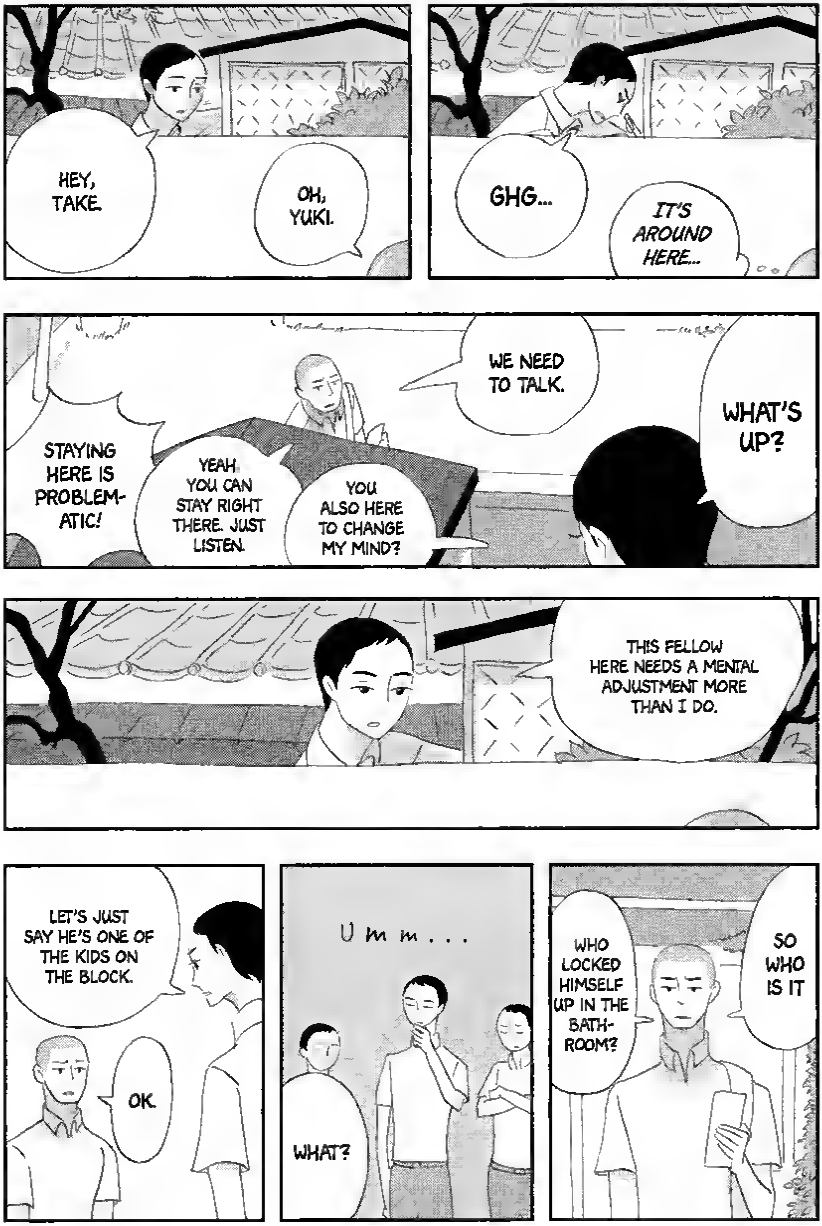

THAT'S NOT HOME PLATE. IT'S THE BATHROOM.
IT WAS A REFLEX.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF THROWING IT HOME!?
frozen

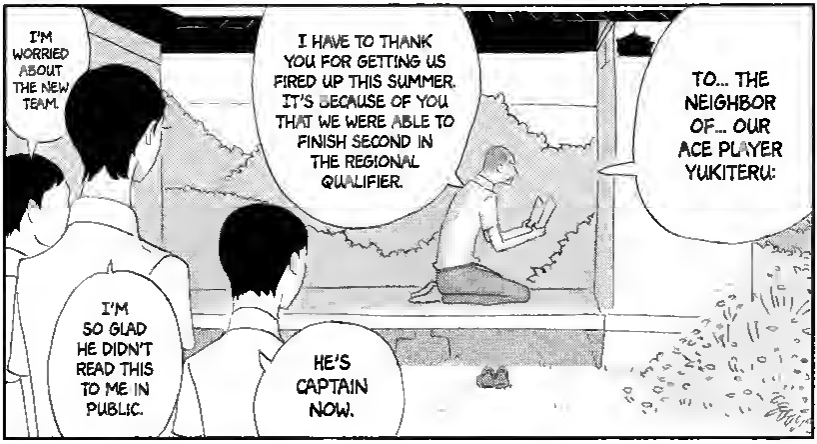
AH!
CRASH
SWISH
HUH!?

AH!
CLICK


YOU STILL ANGRY ABOUT THE NET THING?
WHAT A BRAT.
THERE IS A LADDER ...

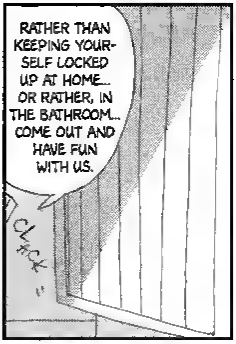

IT LOCKED THE DOOR!

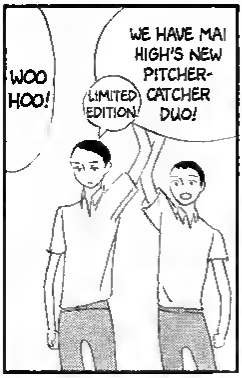

HEY, TAKE.
OH, YUKI.
GHG...
IT'S AROUND HERE...
WE NEED TO TALK.
WHAT'S UP?
STAYING HERE IS PROBLEM-ATIC!
YEAH. YOU CAN STAY RIGHT THERE. JUST LISTEN.
YOU ALSO HERE TO CHANGE MY MIND?
THIS FELLOW HERE NEEDS A MENTAL ADJUSTMENT MORE THAN I DO.
LET'S JUST SAY HE'S ONE OF THE KIDS ON THE BLOCK.
OK.
Umm...
WHAT?
WHO LOCKED HIMSELF UP IN THE BATH-ROOM?
SO WHO IS IT


I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE NEW TEAM.
I HAVE TO THANK YOU FOR GETTING US FIRED UP THIS SUMMER. IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU THAT WE WERE ABLE TO FINISH SECOND IN THE REGIONAL QUALIFIER.
TO... THE NEIGHBOR OF... OUR ACE PLAYER YUKITERU!
I'M SO GLAD HE DIDN'T READ THIS TO ME IN PUBLIC.
HE'S CAPTAIN NOW.

RATHER THAN KEEPING YOURSELF LOCKED UP,
COME OUT AND HAVE FUN WITH US.
CLICK

THAT'S IT! REPEAT THAT!
AH!
SLAM


RATHER THAN KEEPING YOURSELF LOCKED UP AT HOME... OR RATHER, IN THE BATHROOM... COME OUT AND HAVE FUN WITH US.
CLICK

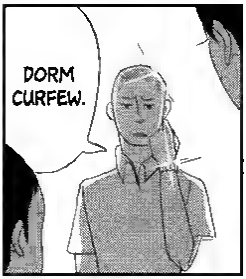

WOO HOO!
LIMITED EDITION!
WE HAVE MAI HIGH'S NEW PITCHER-CATCHER DUO!

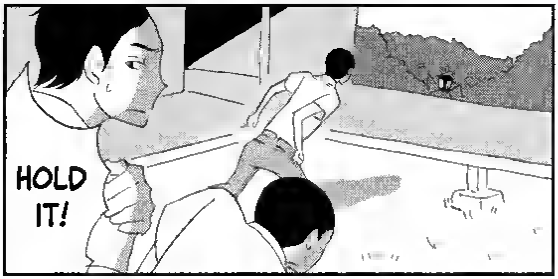
IN THE RED CORNER,

COME OUT AND HAVE FUN WITH US.
WITH US.
HAVE FUN
SLAM

OOPS! THE PRINCE DISLOCATED HIS ARM!
FLOP
WE DON'T KNOW HOW SERIOUS IT IS!!
HIS HEXAGON GUARD MIMICS THE SHAPE OF ICE CRYSTALS! IT'S REALLY A SIGHT TO SEE!
STRAIN STRAIN
STRAIN STRAIN
IT TRULY IS.
GRAB
OOPS, LOOKS LIKE THE DUO JUST FELL APART.
!?
THERE IT IS! PRINCE YUKI'S ICE GUARD!
THE ACE PITCHER IS INFAMOUS FOR DOLING OUT PAIN! IT'S HARD TO TELL IF THIS IS SADISM OR MASOCHISM. HE DOES HAVE A SADISTIC STREAK.
AS FOR OUR WORRIED CATCHER.. OH, HE HIT HIM!
WHAM
OH! HE POPPED IT BACK INTO PLACE HIMSELF...
THINK
GAH!
RUMOR GOES THAT IT WAS DISLOCATED FOR A FULL DAY—
CLICK
JUMP
AND NOW, WHO WILL BE FACING THEM IN THE BLUE CORNER?
CLICK
I DON'T KNOW.. WHO DO YOU THINK WILL SHOW UP?
...WHAT IS THAT?
SHH!
KEEP DRAWING IT OUT.
CLICK

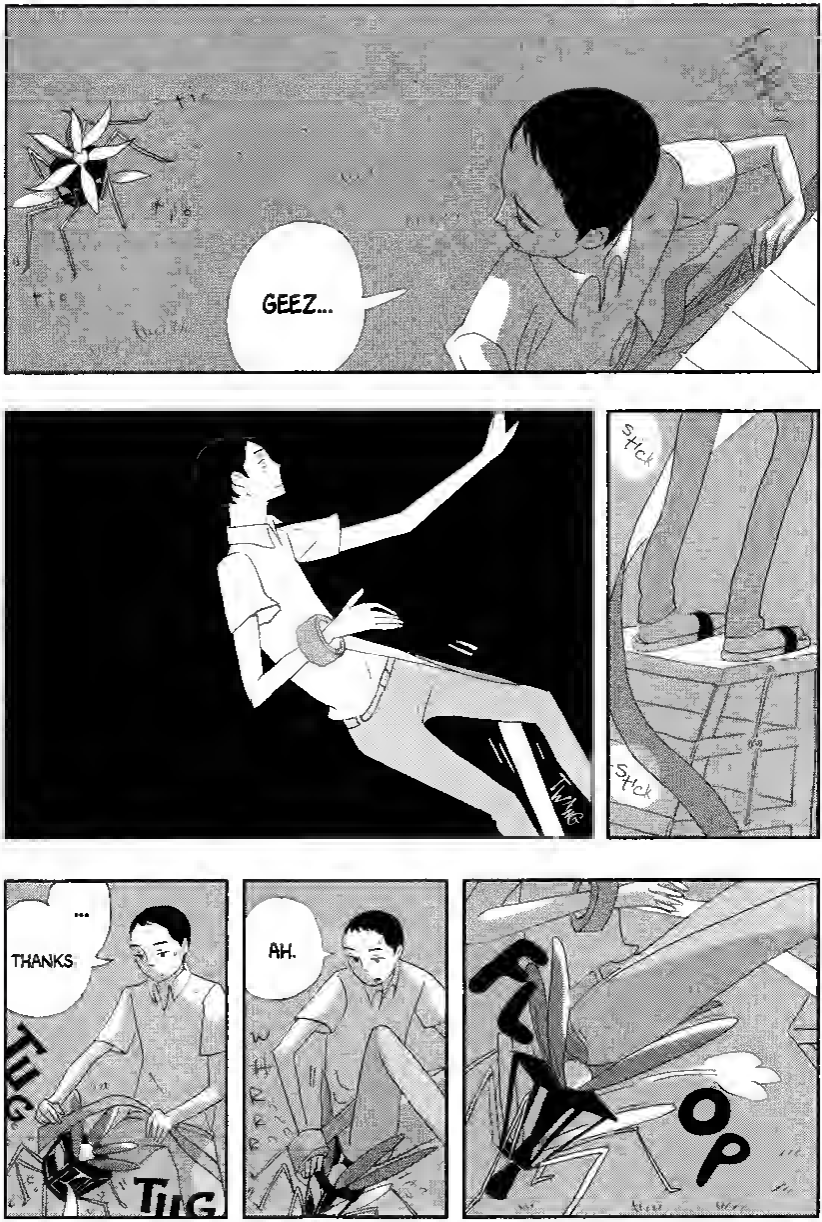
tic
ZOOM


DORM CURFEW.


HOLD IT!

SHOULD HAVE HAD HARA DO THIS.
I CAN'T LIFT MY RIGHT ARM ANY-MORE...

DAMMIT!

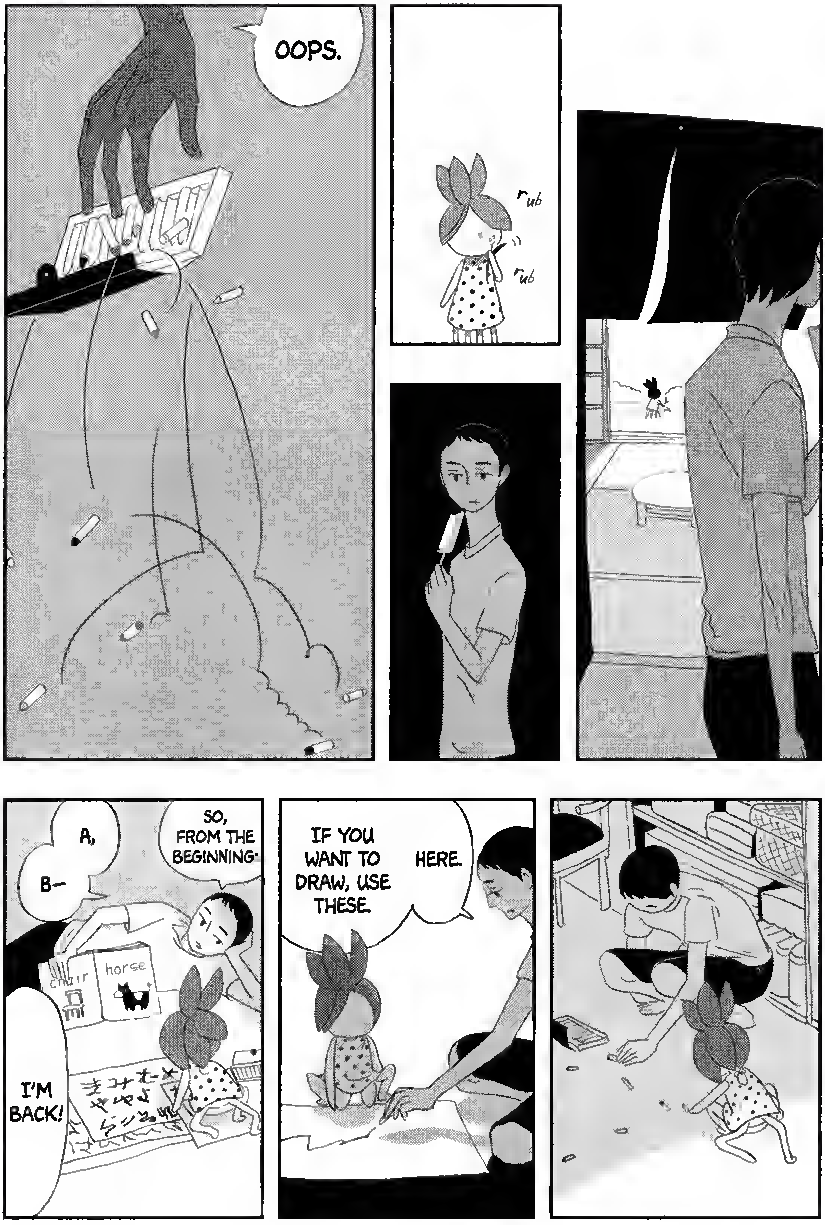

GEEZ...
STICK
STICK
...
THANKS.
TUG
TUG
AH.
WHRRR
OP

...HERE I AM TALKING TO THE MOST SUSPICIOUS THING IN THE WORLD...
DON'T LET ANYONE SUSPICIOUS IN.
I'VE LOCKED EVERY-THING UP.
WOULD YOU ALL JUST QUIT IT!?
SLAM
PARTIES WITH CHICKS!
Woo!
FEMALE ANNOUN-CERS!
RAH
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE CRAZY! WE'LL CATCH FOR YOU!!
EXCUSE ME!
THAT STUFF'S NOT MINE.
DON'T MESS IT UP TOO MUCH
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
...WELL, WHY NOT...
..."I'M BACK"...

VACATION STARTS TOMORROW, SO...
THE FALL TOURNAMENT?
WELL...
HUH? WHAT'S UP, HARA?
Scratch
Scratch
SO I'LL SET UP BASE CAMP HERE.
I wish I could cut out
He's such a crybaby, you know?
your mean streak
THE COACH WAS BEGGING ME. SAID NOT TO COME BACK TO THE DORM UNTIL YOU AGREE TO GET THE SURGERY—
WHAT!?
MM!
YEEE—
EATTLE
EATTLE
EATTLE
EATTLE
WHA!?
IT TALKED! AND IT'S GROWING!
IT TRANS-FORMED AGAIN.
IT'S BEEN GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER
OH.
I'M NOT REALLY GOOD AT MUCH, BUT—
GO HOME.
WHAM

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
CONSIDERING HER SHAPE, I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHAT CLOTHING WOULD WORK ON HER.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WON'T YOUR FAMILY THINK I REALLY HAVE GONE NUTS?
What if they think I'm into ?
MY BIG SISTER SAID SHE STILL LIKES THIS NEW YOU.
WHERE'D YOU FIND KIDS CLOTHES?
You can get all those legs in here, yup
THEY'RE CASTOFFS FROM MY LITTLE SISTER. I SAID YOU NEEDED THEM, YUKI.
Yup!
WHAT?
NOTHING ...
SORRY ...
IT WAS MY SISTER'S NAME. WELL, SHE WAS NEVER BORN. DIED WITH MY MOM.
HOW ABOUT "HINA"?
What?
THAT WAS FAST. WHY HINA?
What?
DID YOU NAME HER?
HUH?
SHE LOOKS LIKE A GIRL. FOR NOW, AT LEAST.

FWIP
AH, SHE'S HAPPY!
I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE...
I WONDER IF SHE UNDER-STANDS?
HEY,
HINA.
I'M GONNA INSTALL MYSELF A NICE YOUNG WIFE TO DO THE GIRLY STUFF.
SERIOUSLY!?
I DO?
INSTALL ONE!? DON'T BET ON IT!
YOU LIVE AT A TEMPLE. YOU'VE GOTTA AT LEAST BE ABLE TO MAKE VEGGIE DISHES
YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELF, YUKI
ALRIGHT, TIME FOR FOOD.
COM-ING.
MISO OR SOY?
NICE! YOU'RE LETTING ME PICK!?
JUST THIS ONCE.
YOUR FREEZER'S PACKED.
TWANG!

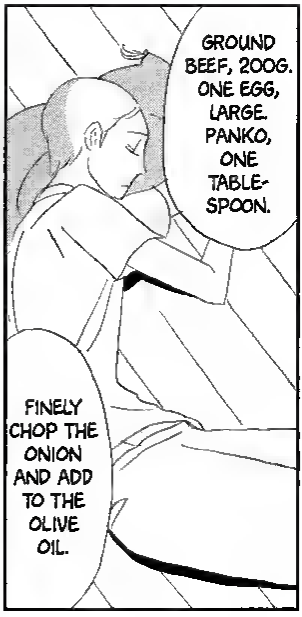

OOPS.
rub
rub
A,
B—
SO, FROM THE BEGINNING.
chair
horse
I'M BACK!
IF YOU WANT TO DRAW, USE THESE.
HERE.

WHOA!
HE'S JUST GETTING CRAZIER AND CRAZIER.
OUR SADIST PRINCE!
HEAR ME OUT
I'M PLAYING A HORSE.
HUH!?
OH,
HEY IDA.
wave
wave
TO OUR ACE WITH THE BROKEN WING..
OK, ENOUGH
FOOD FROM THE DORM.
Wow!
THANKS!
AND I'LL READ YOU THE LETTER FROM TAKE.
TALK ABOUT RARE!
...
I don't get the pitch obsessed
NO.
CAN I TAKE A PIC?
I DON'T GET IT.
YOU NEVER DID TELL US WHY YOU LEFT THE DORMS AND REFUSE TO GET THE SURGERY.
IF YOU DON'T SPEAK UP, OF COURSE WE'LL THINK YOU'VE GONE CRAZY.
AT THE VERY LEAST, IT'S JUST MAKING US WORRY ABOUT YOU.

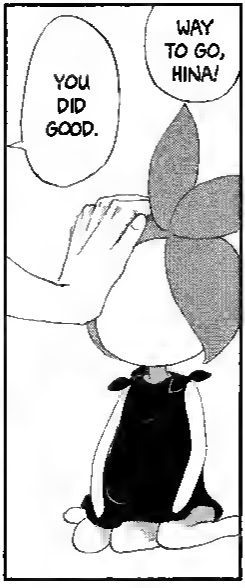
YOU ARE OUR SUN. YOU CREATE YOUR OWN LIGHT.
Aa...
TO KU-SAKA YUKI-TERU·
AH.
FL
SEEING YOU ENERGIZES ALL OF US. BELOW ARE THE SIGNATURES OF THE 56 MEMBERS AWAITING THE DAWN.
YOU'VE WORKED SO HARD TO OVERCOME THE LOSS OF YOUR PARENTS AND BUILD A FUTURE FOR YOURSELF.
WOW, YOU CAN READ ALL THE CHARAC-TERS!
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMEONE TO REPLACE ME IN THOSE 56.
YOU'RE GROWING MUCH FASTER THAN A HUMAN KID
WHAT'S A SUN?

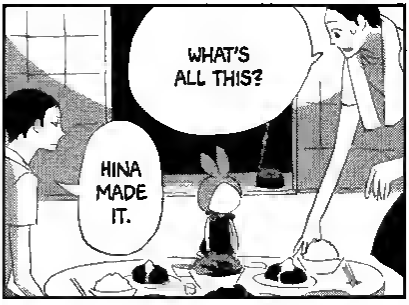
BRRRRRR
OH,
YOU DON'T HAVE EYES
BRR
DON'T STARE AT IT TOO LONG.
THE SUN'S UP THERE.
AND SO,
WE WILL ALL EVENTUALLY ROT AWAY. FROM WITHIN THIS LONELY BASKET OF COLORFUL BERRIES,
READ THIS INSTEAD.
365 Days of Sides
MMM! STOP IT, GOROU. MY FATHER WILL FIND US HERE--
WE LOOK OUT THROUGH THE TINY GAPS IN THE WEAVE AND CALL THAT WHICH WE SEE THE "WORLD". AND THROUGH THOSE GAPS, WE INTERACT WITH AND TOUCH OTHER PEOPLE. WITH OUR EYES, AND NOSE, AND MOUTH, AND EARS, AND THE PARTS BELOW...

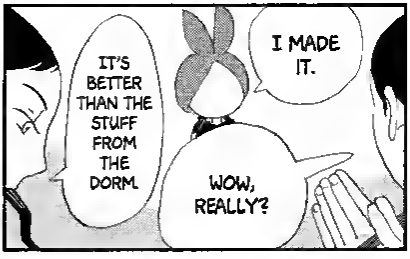
AH—
RRRUMBLE
NOW I REGRET IT—

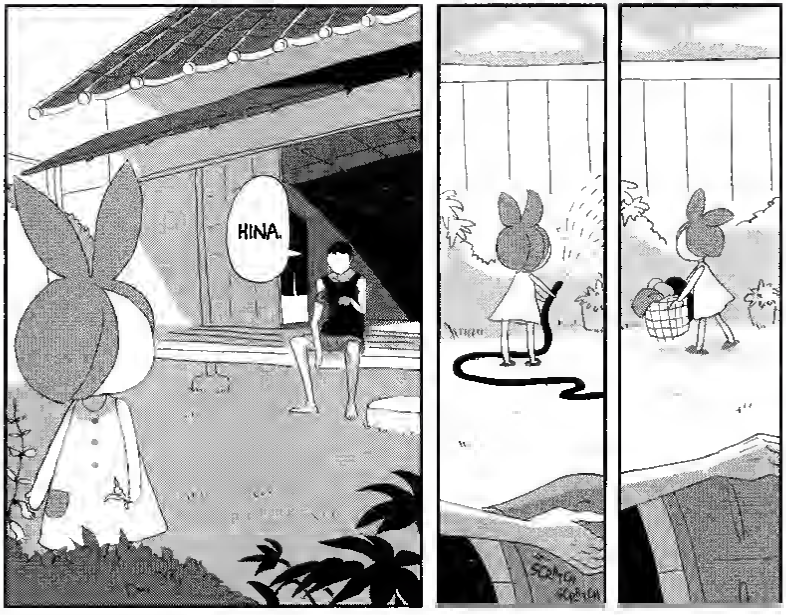

GROUND BEEF, 200G. ONE EGG, LARGE. PANKO, ONE TABLE-SPOON.
FINELY CHOP THE ONION AND ADD TO THE OLIVE OIL.

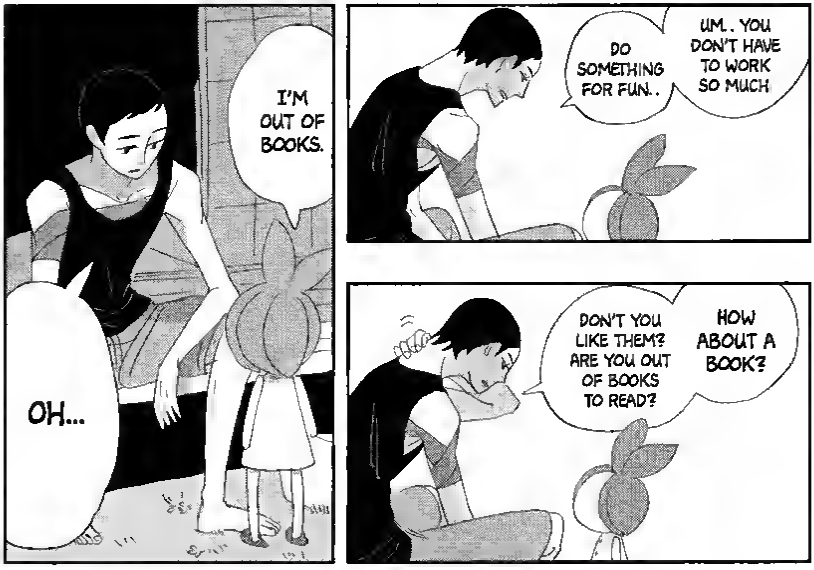
IT'S AMAZING! SO, HOW? AND WHY?
NO IDEA—


WAY TO GO, HINA!
YOU DID GOOD.

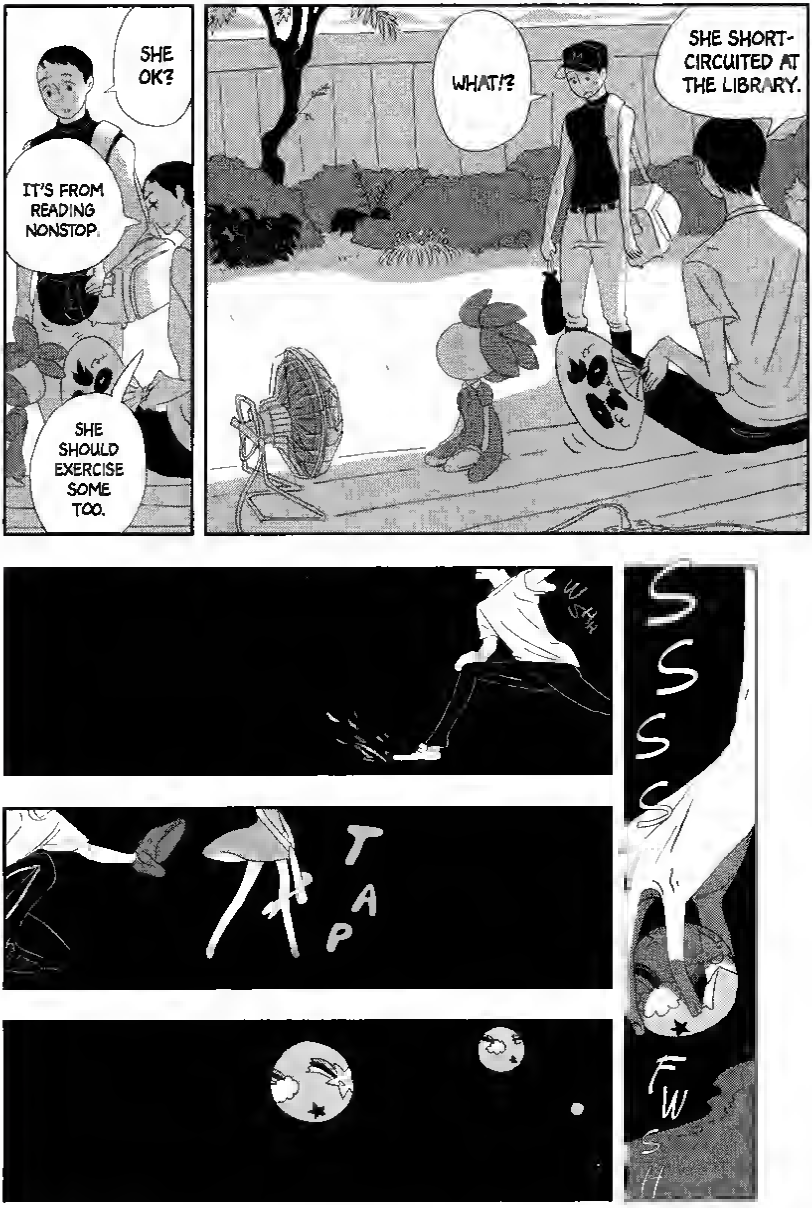

WHAT'S ALL THIS?
HINA MADE IT.

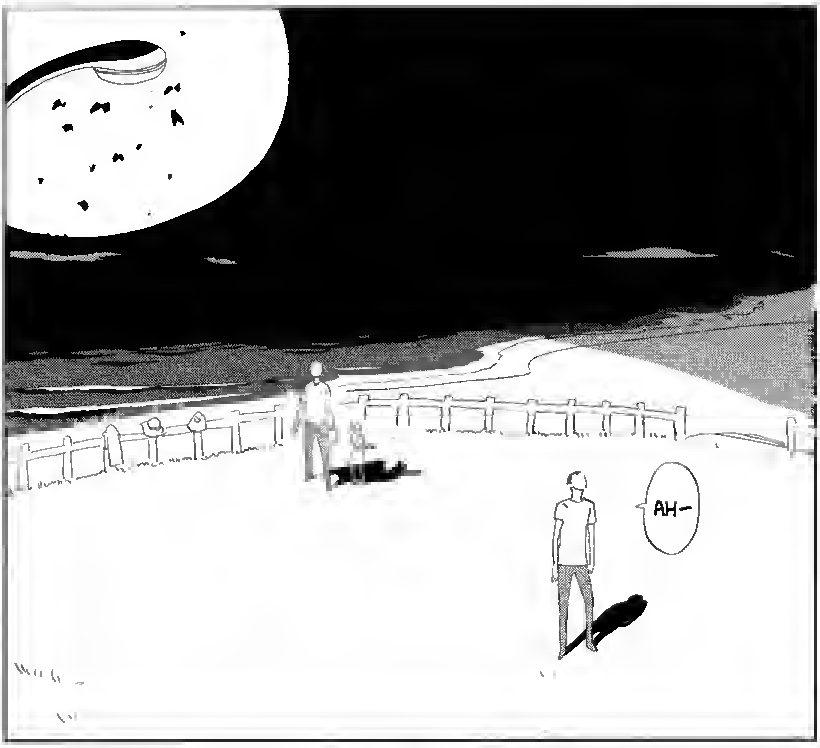

I MADE IT.
IT'S BETTER THAN THE STUFF FROM THE DORM.
WOW, REALLY?

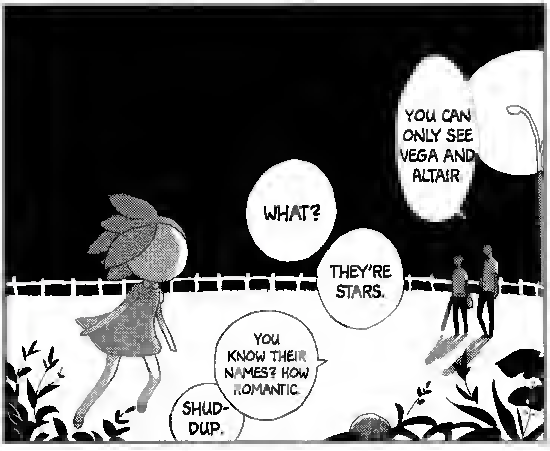

HINA.

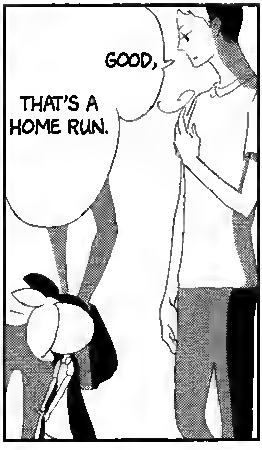

I'M OUT OF BOOKS.
OH...
DO SOMETHING FOR FUN..
UM.. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK SO MUCH
DON'T YOU LIKE THEM? ARE YOU OUT OF BOOKS TO READ?
HOW ABOUT A BOOK?

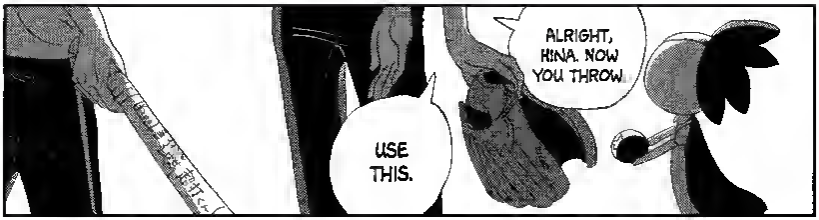
GO READ TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.
ALRIGHT, THIS SHOULD WORK.
YOU'RE INCOGNITO, LIKE AN ACTRESS.
LIBRARY
SPORTS
JOLT
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT!
THAT GIRL...?


SHE OK?
IT'S FROM READING NONSTOP.
SHE SHOULD EXERCISE SOME TOO.
WHAT!?
SHE SHORT-CIRCUITED AT THE LIBRARY.
WUSH
TAP
SSSS
FWSH

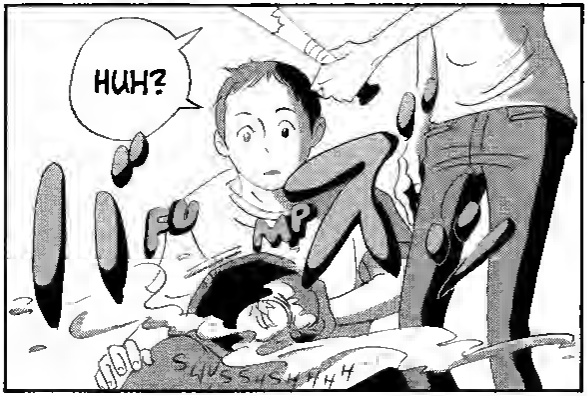

AH—

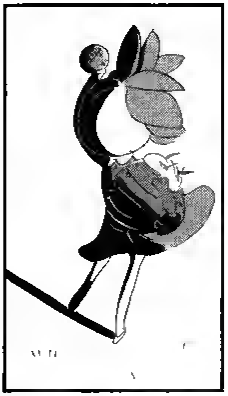

YOU CAN ONLY SEE VEGA AND ALTAIR
WHAT?
THEY'RE STARS.
YOU KNOW THEIR NAMES? HOW ROMANTIC.
SHUD-DUP.

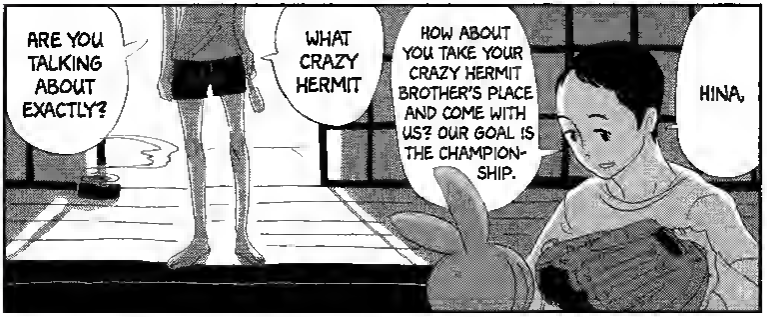

GOOD,
THAT'S A HOME RUN.


USE THIS.
ALRIGHT, HINA. NOW YOU THROW.

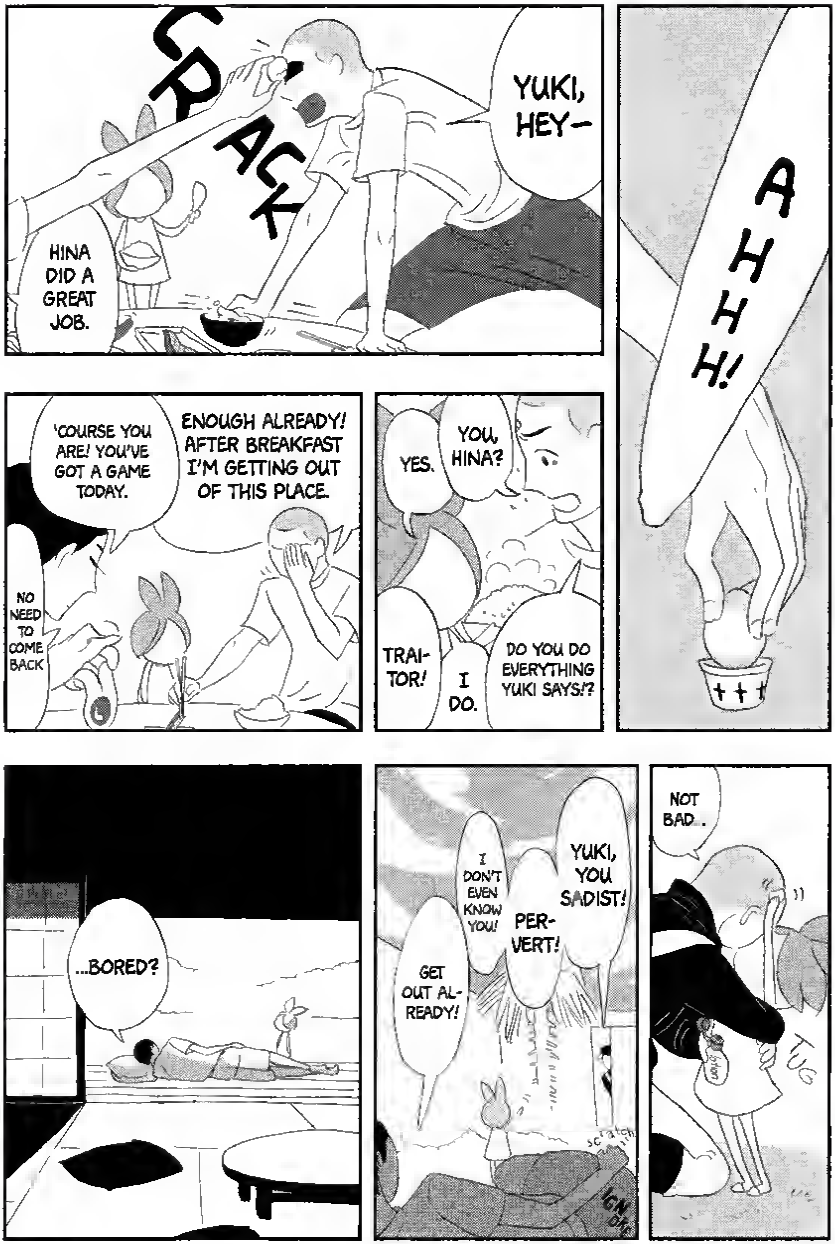
AND WE CAN GET GOING!
GIVE HER THE BASICS
JUST THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
OK!
SO THE BATTER CAN'T SEE YOUR GRIP
GOOD.
PULL BACK A BIT MORE.


HUH?
FU
MP
SHUSSHSHHH

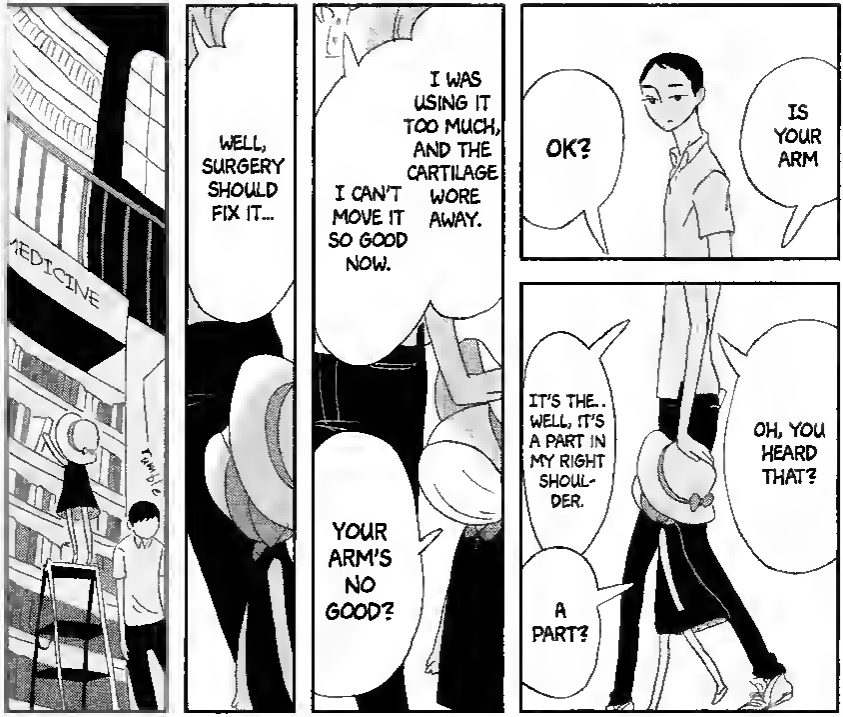


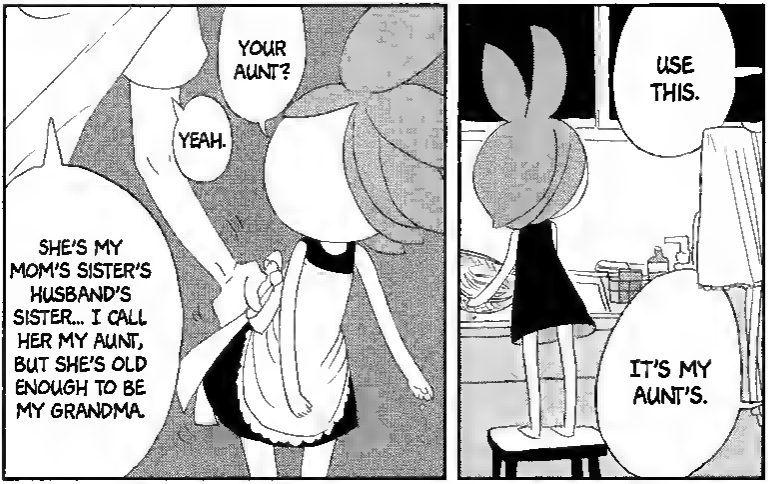

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT EXACTLY?
WHAT CRAZY HERMIT
HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE YOUR CRAZY HERMIT BROTHER'S PLACE AND COME WITH US? OUR GOAL IS THE CHAMPION-SHIP.
HINA.

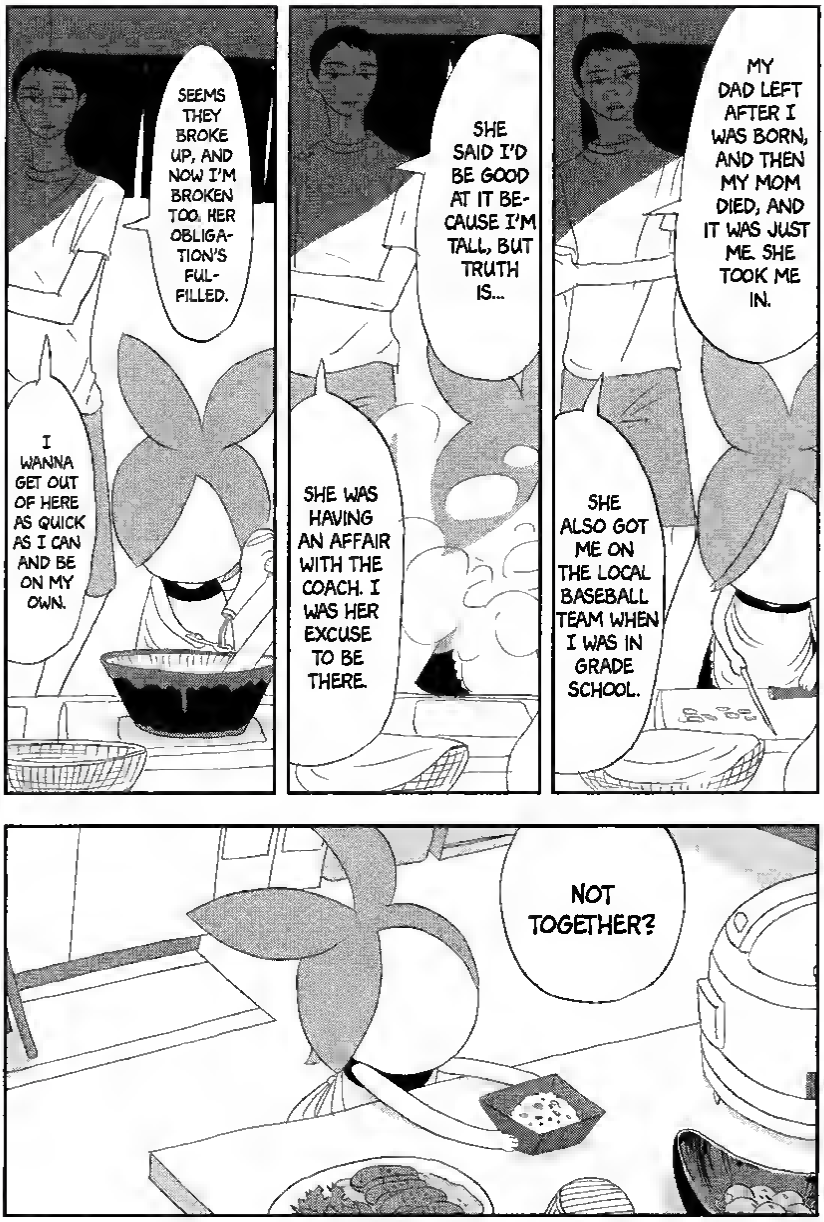
AND HOLD IT!
EVER SINCE YOU CAME TO MY PLACE, ALL YOU'VE DONE IS EAT HINA'S FOOD, LAUGH AT THE TV, AND SLEEP!
GO BACK TO THE DORM!
OUR ONLY CHOICE NOW IS TO PASS HINA OFF AS YUKI.
What made him snap?
100% CATCH
NOW YOU'RE THE CRAZY ONE.
WOW, THE ICE PRINCE IS SO COOL!
SHIVER
INSULTING ROYALTY IS A CAPITAL OFFENSE.
YOU IDIOT. I'M USUALLY ALONE.
IF YOU EAT TOO MANY POPSICLES, YOU'LL GET DIARRHEA.
YOU'RE SO COLD, YUKI-TERU.
Shake shake shake
YOU'D GET LONELY WITHOUT ME.
HM ...?
WHERE


CRACK
YUKI, HEY–
HINA DID A GREAT JOB.
AHHH!
'COURSE YOU ARE! YOU'VE GOT A GAME TODAY.
ENOUGH ALREADY! AFTER BREAKFAST I'M GETTING OUT OF THIS PLACE.
NO NEED TO COME BACK
YOU, HINA?
YES.
TRAI-TOR!
I DO.
DO YOU DO EVERYTHING YUKI SAYS!?
...BORED?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU!
YUKI, YOU SADIST!
PER-VERT!
GET OUT AL-READY!
NOT BAD..
TUG

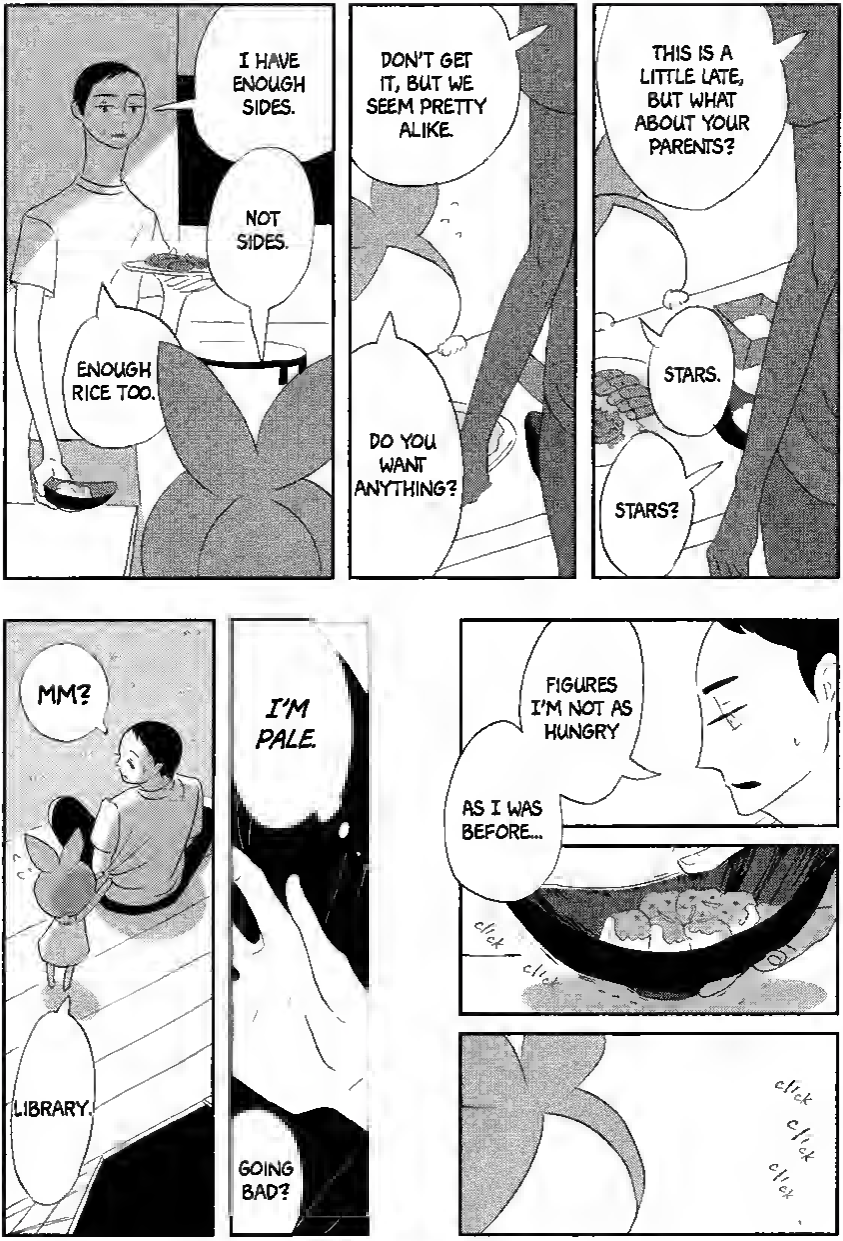
SPACE * SCIENCE
OK, I'll come back again
WOW!
DO YOUR BEST.
THANK YOU.
SO YOU VISIT THE LIBRARY!
I WATCHED THE REGIONAL FINALS ON TV. IS YOUR ARM OK?
YES.
...YES.
IS THAT YOU, KUSAKA?
YES, I KEEP MY SISTER COMPANY.
YOUR ARM.
HM?


MEDICINE
WELL, SURGERY SHOULD FIX IT...
I WAS USING IT TOO MUCH, AND THE CARTILAGE WORE AWAY.
I CAN'T MOVE IT SO GOOD NOW.
YOUR ARM'S NO GOOD?
IS YOUR ARM OK?
OH, YOU HEARD THAT?
IT'S THE.. WELL, IT'S A PART IN MY RIGHT SHOULDER.
A PART?

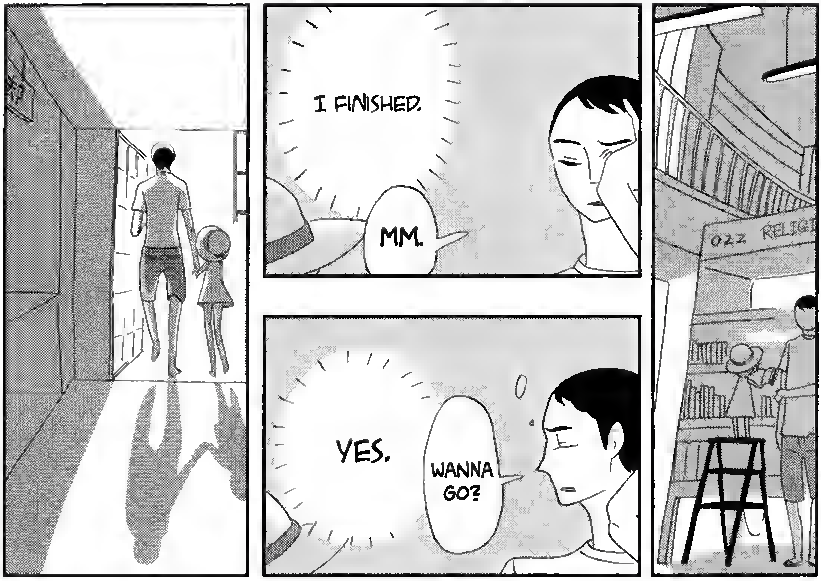

YOUR AUNT?
YEAH.
SHE'S MY MOM'S SISTER'S HUSBAND'S SISTER... I CALL HER MY AUNT, BUT SHE'S OLD ENOUGH TO BE MY GRANDMA.
USE THIS.
IT'S MY AUNT'S.

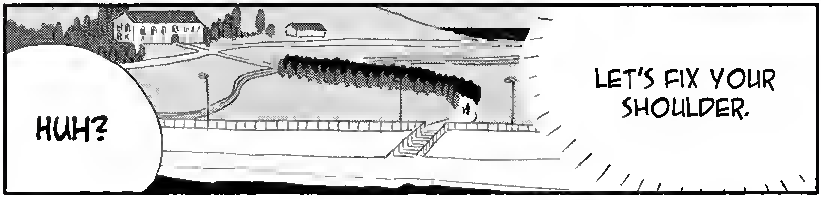

MY DAD LEFT AFTER I WAS BORN, AND THEN MY MOM DIED, AND IT WAS JUST ME. SHE TOOK ME IN.
SHE ALSO GOT ME ON THE LOCAL BASEBALL TEAM WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL.
SHE SAID I'D BE GOOD AT IT BECAUSE I'M TALL, BUT TRUTH IS...
SHE WAS HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH THE COACH. I WAS HER EXCUSE TO BE THERE.
SEEMS THEY BROKE UP, AND NOW I'M BROKEN TOO. HER OBLIGATION'S FULFILLED.
I WANNA GET OUT OF HERE AS QUICK AS I CAN AND BE ON MY OWN.
NOT TOGETHER?

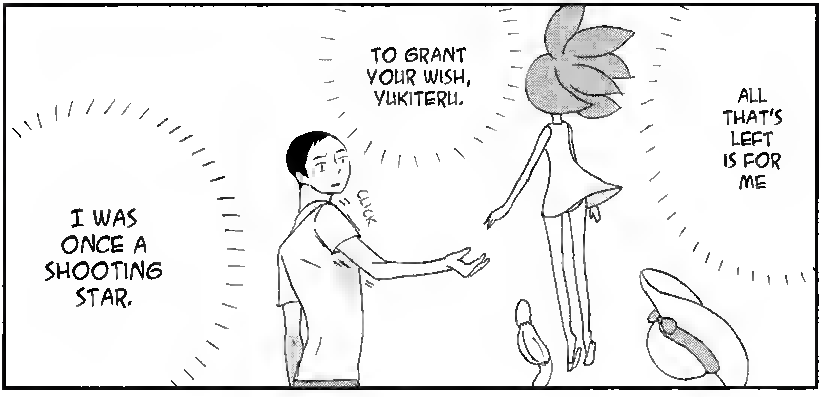
DID YOU KNOW
THAT HUMANS CAN ONLY SEE 5% OF ALL MATTER IN THE UNIVERSE?
23% OF THE REMAINING MATTER GIVES OFF NO LIGHT AND HAS NO REFLECTION
THE FINAL 72% IS UNCHARAC-TERIZED.
SO BASICALLY, 95% OF THE WORLD IS BEYOND OUR COMPREHEN-SION.
SO IT'S NOT SO STRANGE THAT I DON'T KNOW MY DAD OR REMEMBER MY MOM.
SINCE I'M PART OF THE UNIVERSE. ...WELL....


I HAVE ENOUGH SIDES.
NOT SIDES.
ENOUGH RICE TOO.
DON'T GET IT, BUT WE SEEM PRETTY ALIKE.
DO YOU WANT ANYTHING?
THIS IS A LITTLE LATE, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS?
STARS.
STARS?
MM?
LIBRARY.
I'M PALE.
GOING BAD?
FIGURES I'M NOT AS HUNGRY
AS I WAS BEFORE...
click
click
click
click
click

DOES IT HURT?
WHICH PART IS IT?
CAN WE LOOK FOR THE PART?
IT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO HOLD HANDS WITH YOU.
IS YOUR ARM OK?

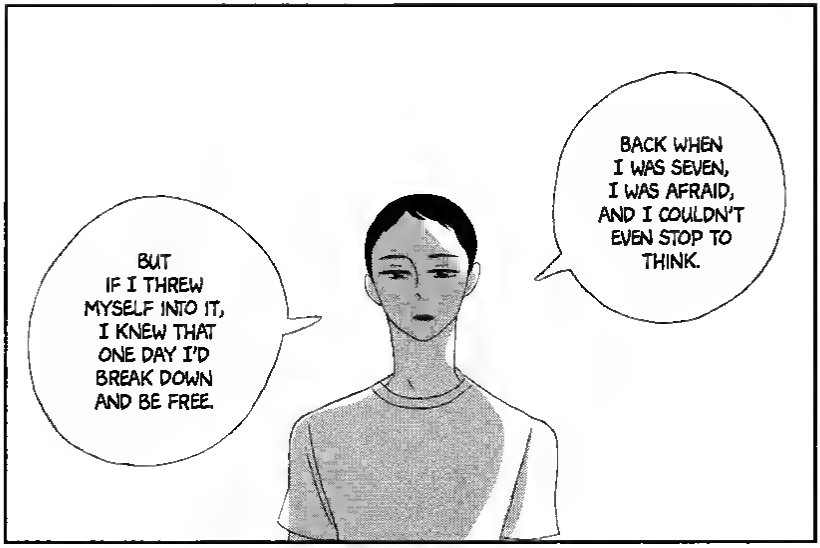

I FINISHED.
MM.
YES.
WANNA GO?

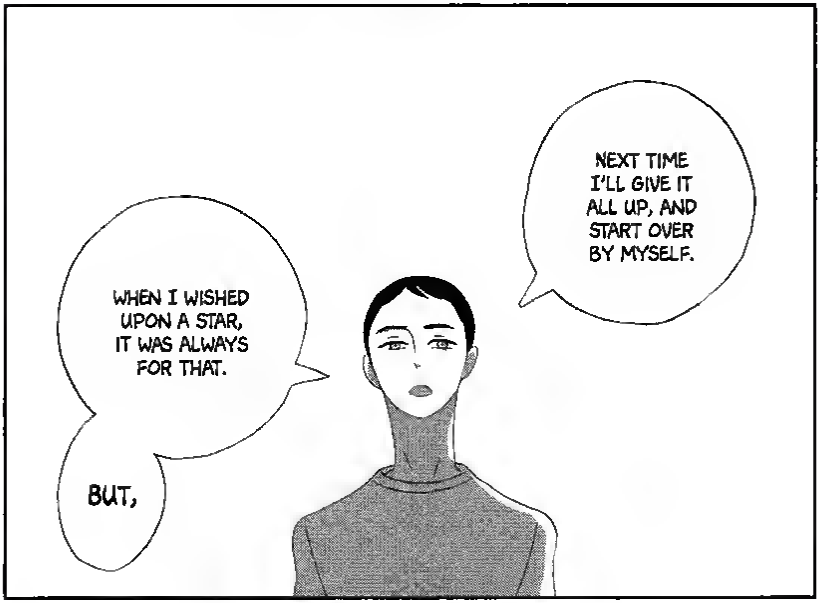

HUH?
LET'S FIX YOUR SHOULDER.

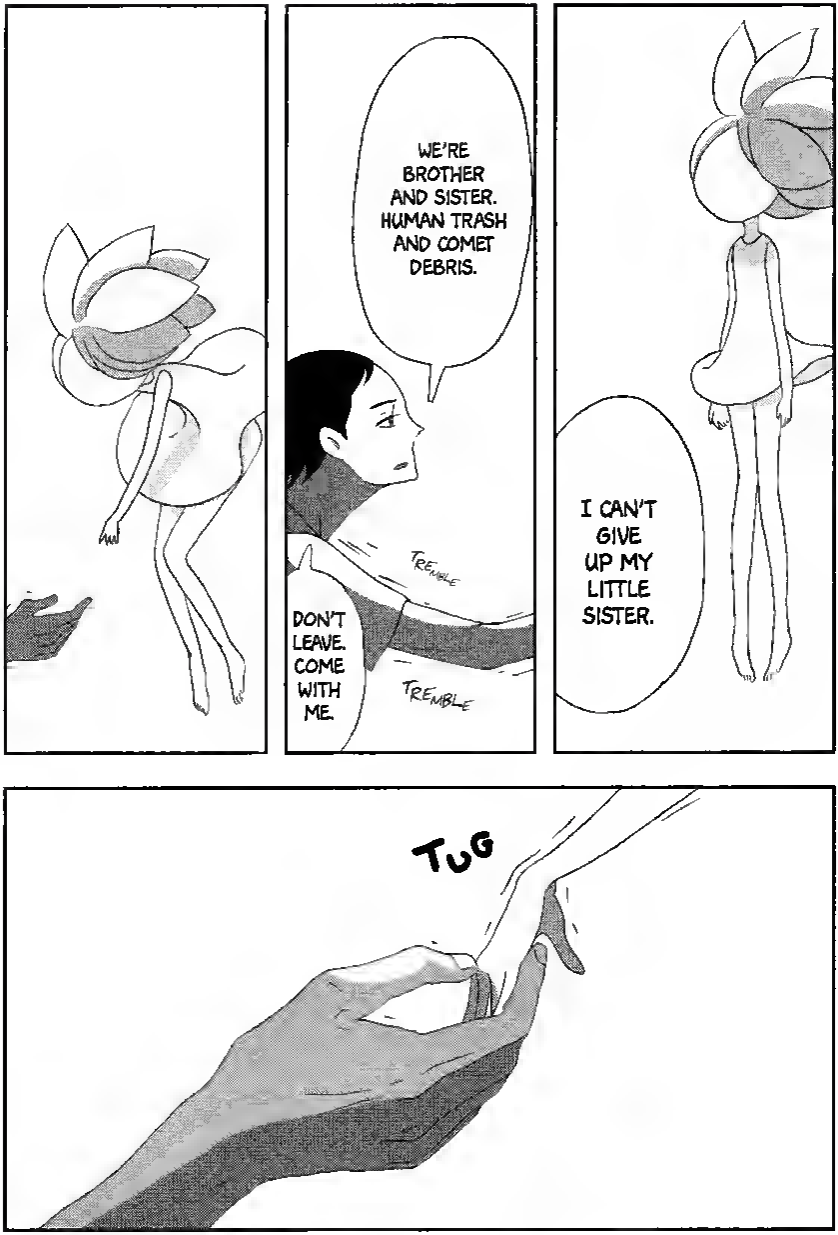

I WAS ONCE A SHOOTING STAR.
TO GRANT YOUR WISH, YUKITERU.
CLICK
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FOR ME

DEBRIS FROM A COMET. THAT COMET CAME FROM THE OORT CLOUD AND IS NOW ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SUN. ALONG THE WAY, I FELL FROM THAT STAR
AND WAS TURNED INTO THE WASHER FOR THAT CABINET SCREW. IT WAS VERY CONFINING.
...
BUT YOU LET ME OUT, YUKITERU.
I STUDIED LOTS OF THINGS SO I'D BE ABLE TO GRANT YOUR WISH.
I'LL HEAL YOUR SHOULDER NOW.

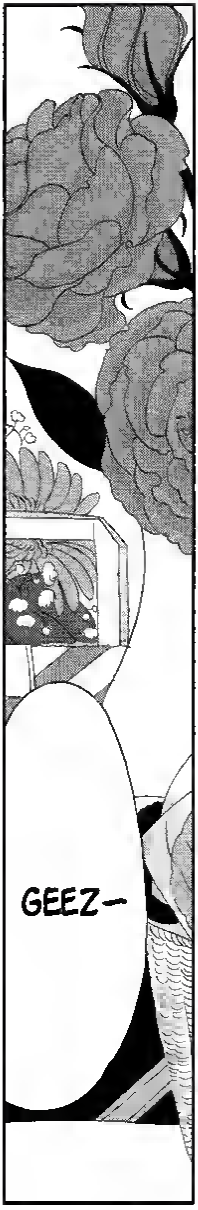
NO.
MY SHOULDER HAD A GOOD TEN YEARS BEFORE BREAKING.
THEY TOLD ME IT'D MAKE ME HAPPY. THAT IT'S THE RIGHT PATH. I'M LUCKY. I'M MEANT TO PLAY BASEBALL.
I wanna be like a pro!
MY AUNT AND THE OTHER GROWNUPS TOLD ME ALL THOSE NICE THINGS.
AND THEY ALSO TAUGHT ME THAT IF I REBELLED, I'D BE ABANDONED, LEFT ALONE ALL OVER AGAIN.
Next up! Kusaka...? I know you have it rough now, but...


BACK WHEN I WAS SEVEN, I WAS AFRAID, AND I COULDN'T EVEN STOP TO THINK.
BUT IF I THREW MYSELF INTO IT, I KNEW THAT ONE DAY I'D BREAK DOWN AND BE FREE.


NEXT TIME I'LL GIVE IT ALL UP, AND START OVER BY MYSELF.
WHEN I WISHED UPON A STAR, IT WAS ALWAYS FOR THAT.
BUT,

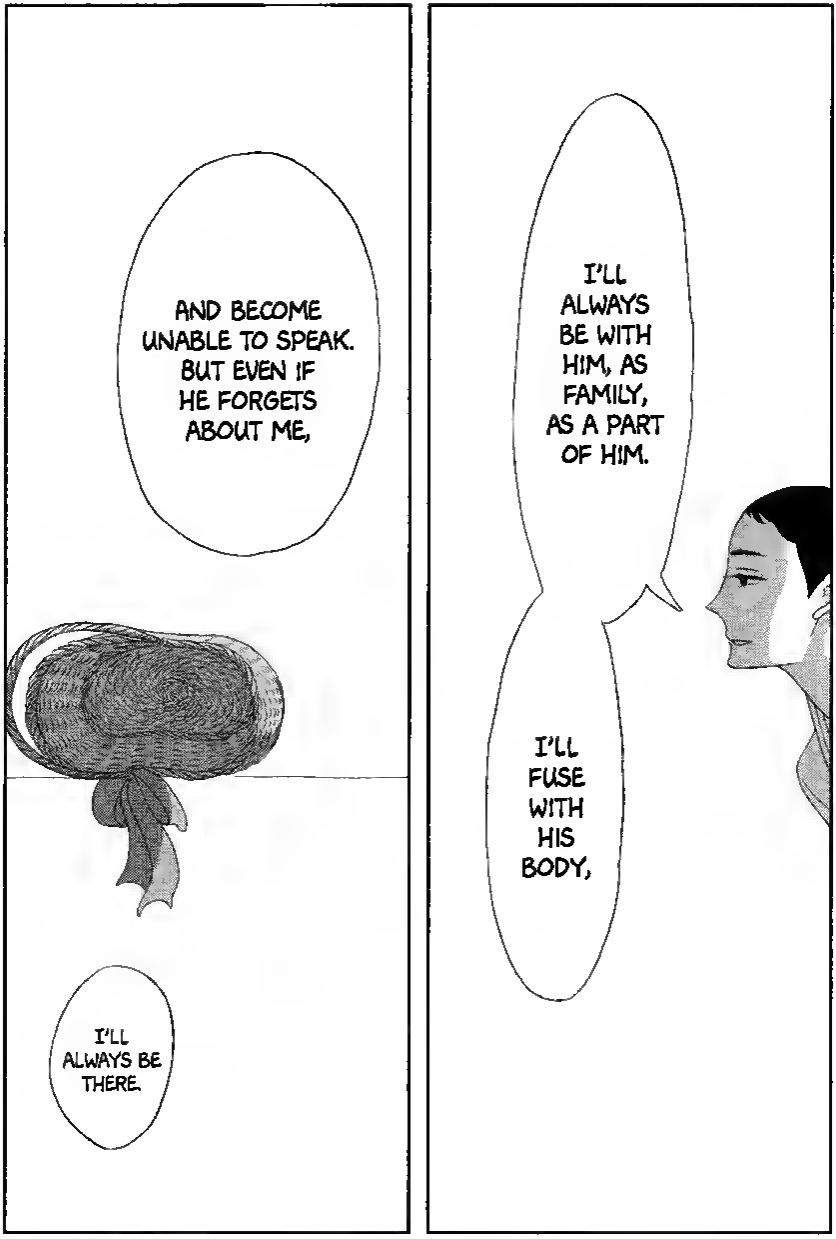

WE'RE BROTHER AND SISTER. HUMAN TRASH AND COMET DEBRIS.
TREMBLE
DON'T LEAVE. COME WITH ME.
TREMBLE
I CAN'T GIVE UP MY LITTLE SISTER.
TUG

ああ
の


GEEZ—

AHH, GEEZ—
I'VE LOOKED EVERY-WHERE FOR HINA, AND I CAN'T FIND HER.
Bow
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOUR SHOULDER'S ALL BETTER?
I DON'T GET IT.
QUIT BEING SO FLAKY!
WE FIND YOU PASSED OUT. WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
HERE WHERE?
I'M RIGHT HERE.

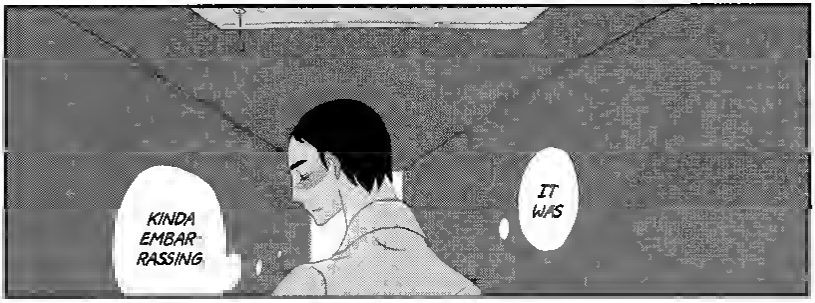
I TURNED INTO THE PART THAT YUKITERU WAS MISSING.
YUKI-TERU'S TIRED, SO HE'S SLEEPING NOW. HE'S ACTUALLY HAD A FEVER FROM THE INJURY THIS WHOLE TIME.
I'M HERE IN HIS PLACE.
WHEN HE WAKES UP, I'LL BECOME JUST A PART OF HIM.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO TALK LIKE THIS ANYMORE.
SO THERE'S SOME-THING I WANT YOU TO TELL HIM FOR ME.


I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH HIM, AS FAMILY, AS A PART OF HIM.
I'LL FUSE WITH HIS BODY,
AND BECOME UNABLE TO SPEAK. BUT EVEN IF HE FORGETS ABOUT ME,
I'LL ALWAYS BE THERE.

I LOVE HIM.

BUT YOU'RE ALL BETTER NOW...
YOU QUIT THE CLUB!
OH MAN—
CLACK
BASEBA
Year 2 Class 1
KEEP BRINGING ME FOOD.
YOU'LL GET OVER IT.
COME BACK—
WE REALLY DO MISS YOU, YUKI.
YOU COULD JUST BE THE MANAGER. NO PLAYING.
HUDDLE UP!

WHEN I TOLD MY AUNT I WANTED TO DO ASTRONOMY INSTEAD OF BASEBALL,
SHE GOT MAD AND SAID I SHOULD'VE TOLD HER SOONER.


IT WAS
KINDA EMBAR-RASSING.

SOMEDAY I WANT TO GO TO THE FARTHEST PLACE A MAN CAN GO
YOU MIGHT FIND IT NOSTALGIC.

HINA.